

# Programme Specification

## BSc (Hons) Agriculture

### 1) Programme Information

Quercus code	QAUAG
Academic Year	2020 /21
Valid entry routes	BSc (Hons) Agriculture
Additional exit routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BSc Agriculture</li> <li>• Diploma of Higher Education</li> <li>• Certificate of Higher Education</li> </ul>
Location(s) of Study	Qingdao Agricultural University, China
School	RAU Joint Institute for Advanced Agritechology at Qingdao Agricultural University (short version is RAU AT QAU)
Programme Manager	Xianmin Chang (RAU) and Prof Jun LI (QAU)
Awarding Body	The Royal Agricultural University <i>[For a complete list of approved exceptions to the RAU Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes please refer to Appendix 1.]</i>
Teaching Institution	RAU Joint Institute for Advanced Agritechology at Qingdao Agricultural University (short version is RAU AT QAU)
Academic level on Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)	Levels 4, 5, 6

Admissions Body	Royal Agricultural University
UCAS code(s)	N/A
Entry Criteria (include IELTS if relevant)	<p><b><u>Entry to year 2 (Level 4) at RAU</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successfully complete QAU year one study</li> <li>• English language at or above equivalent IELTS score of 6.0</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Entry to Year 1 at QAU</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard QAU entry requirements from the National or Provincial College Entrance Examination of the People’s Republic of China.</li> </ul>
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statement	Source: Benchmark statement for Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food and consumer science <a href="https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-agriculture-horticulture-forestry-food-nutrition-and-consumer-sciences.pdf?sfvrsn=28f2c881_7">https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-agriculture-horticulture-forestry-food-nutrition-and-consumer-sciences.pdf?sfvrsn=28f2c881_7</a> (2019)
Details of accreditation by a Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB)	N/A
Mode of delivery	Full-time
Language of study	English
Programme Start Month(s)	August / September
Academic Board approval date	7 July 2021
Valid from	July 2021

*For Registry use only*

<b>Valid to</b>	31 August 2024
<b>Version</b>	V1.1 (July2021)

### **Features of the RAU AT QAU degree programmes**

This innovative degree programme is offered through a partnership between the Royal Agricultural University (RAU) and Qingdao Agricultural University (QAU) and managed through the new “RAU AT QAU”. As a result of this partnership, students admitted to the programme have the opportunity to graduate with two BSc (Hons) degrees:

1. **BSc(Hons) Agronomy degree** awarded by QAU to students who successfully complete the four year programme of study as developed by QAU.
2. **BSc(Hons) Agriculture degree** awarded by RAU to students who successfully attain a total of 360 credits over the three year (Years 2-4) programme of study as developed by RAU.

### **Programme management**

The two BSc programmes are managed by Programme Managers, who are:

- Dr Xianmin Chang (RAU) and
- Prof Jun LI (QAU)

### **Student admissions**

Students will initially be registered onto Year 1 of the four year QAU BSc (Hons) in Agronomy degree programme. To be admitted to Year 1 of the QAU degree, applicants should obtain the qualifying score equivalent to undergraduate requirement for entry into QAU on the National or Provincial College Entrance Examination of the People's Republic of China. Note that candidates with higher English scores will be given priority (all other qualifications being equal).

Those students who successfully complete Year 1 of the Agronomy degree programme AND who achieve a pass in the integrated English language proficiency test (which is equivalent to the IELTS score of 6.0) at the end of Year 1, will then be registered by RAU onto the BSc (Hons) Agriculture degree programme. At this point students will be reading for the two degrees as defined above.

Students who achieve the necessary standard for both degrees will be awarded two degrees, namely a BSc (Hons) Agriculture and a BSc(Hons) Agronomy. Students who fail to meet the standards of either one of these degrees could be awarded a single degree from one or other of the two Universities, provided they meet the required standards of that degree.

## **2) What are the aims and objectives of the programme?**

This innovative degree programme aims to cultivate students who are internationally aware and who will be able to apply their advanced, specialised talents for the management and quality enhancement of products within one of the largest and most dynamic sectors. The aim is to produce high quality graduates with all-round abilities to meet the requirements of economic and modern agricultural development in China and the rest of the world. The Chinese MoE consider these types of degrees to be highly attractive to students who wish to gain a more international perspective of food chain production, management, safety and security. They are also keen to

keep more of the best students in China, rather than have them study abroad. The key objectives of this BSc Honours in Agriculture of the RAU AT QAU degree programme are to:

- a) Provide students with an opportunity to develop specialised knowledge and understanding of biological and earth sciences directly relevant to production-based agricultural systems and applied to problem-based scenarios within a technical and enterprise-based agricultural environment
- b) Enable students to develop a wide knowledge and understanding of scientific, technical and economic principles and specialisms to further develop critical learning and transferable skills to prepare the learner for professional development, graduate employment in China or overseas, or further study, and make an immediate contribution to the appropriate agricultural sector.
- c) Provide the opportunity for the individual study of a particular interest and for self-expression through the Honours research project and gain confidence and clarity in the expression of their own critical and analytical academic skills and professional opinions.
- d) Enhance the learner's interpersonal qualities, skills and practice; the key skills required for both autonomous practice and team participation in working life.
- e) Improve the general English and academic English of Chinese students related to education and the agricultural sector.

### **3) What opportunities are graduates likely to have on completing the programme?**

This programme provides professional agriculturalists of the future with the specific skills required to achieve these aims. This programme will be particularly attractive to students who wish to pursue a specialist career (e.g. as an agronomist, nutritionist, breeding / health and disease advisor, enterprise or unit operator in agricultural on production-based enterprises either in China or elsewhere. Alternatively, they may opt for a career in the support industries. Studying agriculture also develops the skills needed for other graduate careers such as accountancy, teaching, journalism and the civil service.

Alternatively, students may qualify for progression to MA / MBA / MSc, MPhil and PhD studies either at QAU or RAU, or elsewhere.

### **4) What should students expect to achieve in completing the programme?**

#### **Programme Intended Learning Outcomes**

##### **i. Knowledge and Understanding**

- A1** Underlying scientific principles of biological and earth science applied to crop and livestock production systems
- A2** Management of crop and livestock production systems from a sustainable soil and environmental context.
- A3** Global production systems and their relevance to world food supply
- A4** Principles and practice of farm machinery management
- A5** Rural policy and socio-economic factors affecting agriculture production
- A6** Land and environmental management
- A7** Agricultural business, financial and human resource management
- A8** Current issues and developments in world agriculture

## **ii. Intellectual Skills**

- B1** Application of subject-specific theories, paradigms, concepts and principles within learning and assessment environments.
- B2** Critical evaluation of appropriate literature sources to inform study
- B3** Information synthesis from a number of sources in order to gain a coherent understanding
- B4** Identification of, and finding solutions to, problems
- B5** Development and validation of hypotheses
- B6** Demonstration of independence of mind and thought

## **iii. Practical / Professional Skills**

- C1** Planning and completing an independent research project
- C2** Establishing relationships and communicating effectively within the agricultural industry
- C3** Drawing up management plans utilising information from a wide variety of sources
- C4** Applying initiative and taking on responsibility in a practical working situation
- C5** Critically evaluating verbal & written communications from a variety of sources to inform decision making

## **iv. Transferable Skills**

- D1** Communicating clearly and effectively
- D2** Critically evaluating one's own academic and practical work
- D3** Developing numerical skills
- D4** Developing skills in time management and prioritisation of work
- D5** Developing information management skills including IT
- D6** Developing skills in good laboratory practice (GLP)
- D7** Working as a team to produce a desired outcome

See appendix 1 for the Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO) Chart

## **5) How is the Teaching and Learning delivered in this programme?**

The programme will be taught using a mixture of lectures, seminars, tutorials and practical instruction. It is helpful to make clear distinction between these methods of teaching and to consider the role and purpose of each.

### **Lectures**

Lecturers are not the founts of all knowledge. A student's education is a partnership between the student and tutor. The purpose of lectures is to interest students in a particular subject matter in order that they can research it further.

Lectures are normally presented to a large group of students (often all the students on the same year of a programme). Students are encouraged to ask questions and there may be formal question times offered at various intervals.

Lectures can be helpful to study by

- Stimulating interest in the subject matter;
- Giving information;
- Offering different perspectives on a subject;
- Explaining difficult concepts and theories;
- Showing students how to deepen their knowledge;
- Providing an opportunity to listen to specialist guest lecturers.

### **Seminars & Tutorials**

Seminars (student presentations and discussion) and tutorials (informal tutor sessions) should be primarily interactive and can work well with student engagement. They provide an opportunity for students to discuss topics with each other in an informal setting.

They are an occasion for the exchange of ideas and information under the guidance of a lecturer/tutor.

Seminars and tutorials can be helpful to study by:

- Offering the chance for students to express their views;
- Allowing academic interaction;
- Giving students valuable practice in making presentations;
- Facilitating discussions;
- Encouraging structured research;
- Sharing and diversification of information and experience;
- Introducing group work.

### **Practical Activity**

Student practical activity and demonstrations will take a variety of forms

including laboratory practicals and farm and field visits. They are an important part of the overall programme provision and help to reinforce and apply the subject principles received in the lecture sessions.

### **Dissertation (Honours Research Project)**

A dissertation is a formal, structured document, based on some form of original research project. This may be in the form of an experiment, a survey, a literature review etc. Students are expected to develop and demonstrate their research skills and critical ability through the medium of this piece of work. The main purpose of the dissertation is to demonstrate the application of knowledge gained in the taught element of the programme and to show that a research topic can be handled with the right level of academic competence.

They will be subject to a viva where they will have to defend their work. This will be worth 20% of the dissertation mark.

The dissertation may take a variety of forms, depending on the interests and abilities of the individual student and the particular requirements of the study agreed with the project supervisor.

The Honours Research Project is used as a vehicle for encouraging individual student research and expression. Whilst there is no minimum length requirement, students are advised to aim for a dissertation length of between 10,000 and 12,000 words.

### **Independent study**

Students are expected to undertake private study as an important learning method within the programme. This will normally involve reading to explore the breadth and depth of the syllabus, preparation of tutorial/seminar work, preparation of coursework, case study submissions and preparation of major projects. The use of the QAU University library is very important for the effective use of private study time. The library staff provide advice and assistance on both finding and using relevant material. Guidance in private study is also given by the academic staff.

### **Integrated Project**

Unique to the RAU-QAU suite of programmes, the Integrated Project runs through Semester 7 and requires students from all four RAU programmes, namely FPSM, "Environment, Food and Society (EFS)", "Agriculture (Ag)" and "International Business Management (Food & Agribusiness) (IBFA)" to work in a mixed team to achieve a common goal of developing a new food product. Students on this module will learn through a process of peer-to-peer learning, taught sessions (covering key topics in product development) and practical sessions (where they can develop their products). For the product development tasks, students will be guided by teaching staff, but they must work as a team and utilise the learned skills of the different student members to complete the task.

This Integrated Project module will provide an environment for the students to demonstrate their learning to date and to also develop important transferable skills including teamwork, project and time management and communication, all of which are highly desirable employability skills.

### **Programme structure**

The overall programme is of four years' duration of full time study in total (the academic year consists of two semesters, each of 20 weeks duration), with the RAU programme starting in year 2. The RAU programme consists of a specific group of taught core modules that students complete along with the associated assignments. During the final semester of the fourth year at QAU i.e. semester 8 of the four-year programme, students undertake their dissertation under the joint supervision of an individually assigned dissertation supervisor from QAU. Occasionally a joint supervisor from RAU may be required if the dissertation topic is one where this is appropriate e.g. UK or European-based subjects.

All full-time academic programmes, are constructed using a selection of modules, each of which requires engagement with a variety of learning activities.

Successful completion of module assessments will result in the award of credits. Beginning with level 4 (year 2 at QAU) each years' program of study has in total 120 credits. The credit bearing modules in the majority of semesters of study are a combination of modules from QAU and RAU. These are taught by the relevant teaching staff from the two universities.

The credit system is used to ensure a balanced workload across the programme and across each semester of study. Each credit point represents contact teaching, including theoretical and experimental teaching periods.

Students are required to spend sufficient learning in their own time after class to achieve credits. Activities, such as reading around the subject, preparing for tutorials and seminars, preparing for, and completing, module assessments and revision for, and sitting examinations, will take place outside of these scheduled activities, but are an essential part of a students' learning journey. Students have to complete assignments and achieve a module pass to achieve the corresponding credits of a module. In addition, students have to take part in the practical activities required by some core courses specified in the programme specification.

For the award of BSc (Hons) degree in Agriculture, a total of 360 credits must be gained with 120 credits at level 4 (second year at QAU), 120 credits at level 5 (third year at QAU) and 120 credits at level 6 (fourth year at QAU). Successful completion of all levels, and including additional QAU modules, leads to the award of the QAU Bachelor degree and, therefore,



two degrees (double degree).

The QAU has established a teaching management system and an online learning platform (VLE). On the teaching management system, students can find the programme page with a Programme Specification, the module schedule and the name of each module's manager, contact hours and so on. These will mirror the programme pages at the RAU. The online learning platform is where students will find the teaching resources for each module on the programme, including each module's curriculum, learning outcomes, assessment methods and resource lists.

Students attempting to shortcut their learning activities may find themselves experiencing difficulties as each module progresses, and as the level of assumed understanding increases. Therefore, it is vitally important that new students establish an effective routine for their studies as soon as possible. Maintaining a balanced workload from the start of the programme will help to avoid intense periods of activity, and ensure knowledge and understanding gradually develop throughout the year in readiness for any end of module examinations and/or coursework.

As part of the Chinese teaching year, students will undertake the activities as laid out in the Table 1. The numbers shown in the table reflect the total time allocated to each activity during the duration of the four year double degree programme. Note that not all these activities relate to the RAU degree.

Table 1. Activity during the four year double degree programme

<b>Content</b>	<b>Time (total weeks)</b>	<b>Note</b>
Full curriculum	160 weeks	Study at QAU for 20 weeks per semester (8 semesters)
Vacation (not part of the 160 weeks)	43 weeks	
Exams (part of the 160 weeks)	14 weeks	
Admission education, military training (part of the 160 weeks)	1.5 weeks	
Graduation education (part of the 160 weeks)	0.5 weeks	
Graduation internship, graduation thesis (design) and thesis (design) defense (part of the 160 weeks)	17 weeks	
Flexibility (not part of the 160 weeks)	5 weeks	Spring sports meetings, state stipulated holidays

Footnote:  $160+43+5 = 208$  weeks ( $52 \times 4$  years = 208)

## **6) What is the Programme Assessment Strategy<sup>1</sup>?**

A range of assessment techniques will be applied throughout the programme to test learning outcomes. These will be clearly identified on the VLE for each module, but could include:

- Formal (time constrained) examinations
- Essays
- Reports – either academic research or professional
- Case studies
- Group work exercises
- Oral presentations
- In-class tests – e.g. multiple choice, short answer
- Practical assessment – e.g. production of food products (NPD), laboratory experiments

Each module is assessed by one or more pieces of coursework &/or examinations, which are designed to assess the skills students should acquire within each specific module. Full details of the assessments are available to students online and via the VLE. To gain credits for (i.e. to pass) a module, students must achieve an overall grade of 40% or greater for that module. Students should be aware of the weighting of different assessment elements within modules and how this affects the final calculated module grade.

Coursework is normally set at the start of modules with a date for submission and marking before the end of the module. Students are responsible for ensuring that coursework assessments are submitted on time. Any non-submission or non-attendance should be recorded as zero and a note placed against the individual assessment and against the module.

The opportunity to refer (resit an exam or resubmit coursework) is available to students who have failed a module to allow them to reach an overall pass mark of 40%. A maximum module mark of 40% is available following referral. RAU regulations stipulate that students can be referred in up to a maximum of 50% of their module credits within a single academic year (i.e. 60 credits per year).

Students who are unable to complete coursework to the appropriate standard by the due date as a result of exceptional circumstances (e.g. illness, family bereavement) must submit a request to the RAU Registry for an extension for ten working days or for a deferral to the next assessment period, together with appropriate supporting evidence. Details of this procedure are available in the RAU's [Academic Regulations](#). Once a claim for an extension has been accepted, work will be assessed without prejudice (as if for the first time) and full marks will be awarded. Details of RAU assessment regulations and generic marking guidelines for coursework and examinations can be found in the [Students Study Handbook](#) on the RAU website.

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<sup>1</sup> Details of the implementation of the Assessment Strategy are found in Appendix 2.

*Note that under QAU regulations, some QAU taught modules require students to attend a minimum number of teaching sessions before they can complete assessments. Students must ensure they acquaint themselves with these regulations to ensure they can complete relevant module assessments.*

## **7) What do students need to achieve in order to graduate?**

Notwithstanding University Regulations and the authorities and powers exercised by examiners, students will normally need to demonstrate achievement in the elements of the programme, as laid out in Section 7. Programmes are structured through the accumulation of credit. Successful completion of module assessments will result in the award of credits.

In brief, students will normally need to achieve the following in order to be awarded the qualifications:

### **BSc (Hons) Agriculture**

The accumulation of 360 credits (or more) to include a minimum of 120 at level 6 and a maximum of 120 at level 4, through the assessment of taught modules as detailed below, table 2:

Table 2. Modules of the RAU BSc (Hons) Degree in Agriculture

Description	Level	Teaching period		Owner	Credits
		Year	Semester		
<b>MODULES:</b>					
Plant Physiology (Q1501)	4	2	3	QAU	15
Agro-meteorology (Q1500)	4	2	3	QAU	15
Experimental Design & Statistical Methods (Q1502)	4	2	3	QAU	15
Introduction to the Agri-Food Industry (Q1325)	4	2	3	RAU	15
Science of Soil and Fertiliser (Q1503)	4	2	4	QAU	15
Soil and Environmental Science (Q1007)	4	2	4	RAU	15
Crop Production 1 (Q1052)	4	2	4	RAU	15
Livestock Production 1 (Q1053)	4	2	4	RAU	15
Economic Applications for Farm Enterprises (Q2222)	5	3	5	RAU	15
Managing Livestock Systems (Q2004)	5	3	5	RAU	15

Farm Mechanisation (Q2021)	5	3	5	RAU	15
Science of Farming Systems (Q2500)	5	3	5	QAU	15
Research in Organizations (Q2346)	5	3	6	RAU	15
Managing Cropping Systems (Q2236)	5	3	6	RAU	15
Agricultural Technology (Q2337)	5	3	6	RAU	15
Applied Seed Science (Q2501)	5	3	6	QAU	15
Integrated Project (Q3501)	6	4	7	RAU	15
Sustainable Management of Soil & Water (Q3013)	6	4	7	RAU	15
Sustainable Agricultural Intensification (Q3209)	6	4	7	RAU	15
Integrated Organic Systems (Q3228)	6	4	7	RAU	15
Sustainable Business in Agri-food Supply Chains (Q3218)	6	4	7	RAU	15
Emerging Agri-Food Issues (Q3006)	6	4	8	RAU	15
Dissertation (Q3300)	6	4	8	QAU	30
<b>ELECTIVE MODULES:</b>					
There are no electives in this programme					
<b>TOTAL:</b>					360

If a student does not meet the required standards for the award, the examiners for the programme may decide to offer a lower award associated with the programme, providing that a lower exit award exists and the student meets the requirements of that lower award.

### Pass Criteria

The University operates standard pass criteria which can be found in the [RAU Academic Regulations; \(paragraphs 137 – 151\)](#).

In summary, to pass each module a student must achieve a minimum grade of 40%. The RAU grading scheme is slightly different to that of QAU; however, a conversion factor to determine specific grades is shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3: QAU to RAU mark conversion factors.

QAU mark	RAU mark	QAU mark	RAU mark	QAU mark	RAU mark	QAU mark	RAU mark	QAU mark	RAU mark
100	90+	90	80	80	66	70	51	60	40
99	89	89	79	79	64	69	49	0-59	0-39
98	88	88	78	78	63	68	48		
97	87	87	76	77	61	67	47		
96	86	86	75	76	60	66	46		
95	85	85	73	75	58	65	45		
94	84	84	72	74	57	64	44		
93	83	83	70	73	55	63	43		
92	82	82	69	72	54	62	42		
91	81	81	67	71	52	61	41		

Exact marks considered to be a fail (<40%) can be determined if necessary, using a simple linear of 0 – 59 on the Y-axis and 0 – 39 on the X-axis.

### **Degree Award categories**

Honours degrees (where the student has completed a dissertation) are categorised on the basis of the final calculated grade. Degree categories are shown in Table 4. Ordinary degrees (normally where a student has not completed a dissertation) are not categorised, but are awarded a “pass”. Final grades are calculated using the average Level 5 (Year 3) and Level 6 (Year 4) module grades, weighted at 30% for the Level 5 grade and 70% for the Level 6 grade.

Table 4: RAU Degree Award categories. Honours degrees (include a dissertation) are categorised on the basis of the final calculated degree grades. Ordinary degrees (normally without a dissertation) are not categorised:

Grade achieved	Category
70%+	1 <sup>st</sup> class
60 – 69%	Upper second (2.1)
50 – 59%	Lower second (2.2)
40% – 49%	Third
<40%	Fail

## Appendix 1: –Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO) Chart:

### BSc (Hons) Agriculture

CODE	Identity	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7
1	Experimental design and statistical methods							y		y				y		y		y					y		y	y	
2	Plant Physiology	y	y				y			y		y			y											y	
3	Science of Soil and Fertilizer	y	y				y																			y	
4	<u>Agro-meteorology</u>						y			y		y					y								y		
5	Introduction to the agri-food industry			y		y							y		y		y										
6	Soil and Environmental Science	y	y				y					y	y				y										
7	Crop Production 1	y	y		y	y	y																				
8	Livestock production 1	y	y		y	y	y																				
CODE	Identity	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7
1	Economic Applications For Farm Enterprises				y	y		y		y			y					y		y					y		
2	Research in Organizations									y	y	y	y	y	y	y			y		y	y					
3	Managing Livestock Systems	y	y	y							y	y															
4	Managing Cropping Systems	y	y	y												y											
5	Farm Mechanization Management		y		y	y		y																			
6	Agricultural Technology				y				y														y		y		
7	Applied Seed Science		y			y	y																			y	
8	Science of Farming System		y	y		y	y																				
CODE	Identity	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A9	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7
1	Emerging Agricultural Issues					y			y	y	y	y	y		y					y							
2	Sustainable Management of Soil and Water		y			y	y		y				y					y		y							
3	Sustainable Agricultural Intensification	y	y			y	y	y	y									y									

4	Integrated Organic Systems	y	y	y		y		y	y	y																		y
5	Sustainable Business and Agri-food Supply Chains			y		y		y				y	y			y	y											
6	Integrated Project							y					y				y	y		y		y	y	y	y	y		
7	Research Project Dissertation								y	y	y	y	y	y	y		y	y	y	y	y							y

## Appendix 2 - Mode of Assessment Mix

CODE	Identity	Credit	Written report (individual)	Written report (group)	Case study	Oral presentation (group / individual)	Lab / practical analysis	Formal unseen exam	On line / in class exam / test
1	Experimental design and statistical methods	15	y					y	y
2	Plant Physiology	15	y				y	y	y
3	Science of Soil and fertilizer	15	y				y	y	y
4	<u>Agro-meteorology</u>	15					y	y	y
5	Introduction to the agri-food industry	15				y			y
6	Soil and Environmental Science	15	y					y	
7	Crop Production 1	15	y					y	
8	Livestock production 1	15	y					y	

CODE	Identity	Credit	Written report (individual)	Written report (group)	Case study	Oral presentation (group / individual)	Lab / practical analysis	Formal unseen exam	On line / in class exam / test
1	Economic Applications For Farm Enterprises	15		y					
2	Research in organizations	15	y			y			
3	Managing Livestock Systems	15	y					y	
4	Managing Cropping Systems	15	y						
5	Farm Mechanization Management	15	y					y	
6	Agricultural Technology	15	y			y			



7	Applied Seed Science	15					y	y	y
8	Science of Farming System	15	y				y	y	

CODE	Identity	Credit	Written report (individual)	Written report (group)	Case study	Oral presentation (group / individual)	Lab / practical analysis	Formal unseen exam	On line / in class exam / test
1	Emerging Agricultural Issues	15	y					y	
2	Sustainable Management of Soil and Water	15	y						
3	Sustainable Agricultural Intensification	15	y					y	
4	Integrated Organic Systems	15	y	y					
5	Sustainable Business and Agri-food Supply Chains	15			y				
6	Integrated Project	15		y		y	y		
7	Research Project Dissertation	30	Report and Presentation						

## **8) Work-based Learning**

There is no placement in this programme.

## **9) How will the University assure the quality of the provision?**

Although this programme is taught in Qingdao Agricultural University (QAU), China it will be managed by the RAU Joint Institute (JI) for Advanced AgriTechnology at Qingdao Agricultural University (RAU AT QAU). The RAU AT QAU will be managed by the Joint Management Committee (JMC), which will be chaired by the President of QAU, with a Deputy Chair from RAU (presently this is Dr Xianmin Chang). All academic matters will be managed by the Academic Committee (AC) according to RAU's Regulations for undergraduate degrees. The AC will be chaired by a senior member of RAU staff (presently Professor Ravenscroft) and will report to the RAU's Academic Board.

Students reading for this Agriculture degree will effectively have a contract with the Royal Agricultural University that consists of:

- the terms laid out in the Student Contract document
- this Programme Specification and associated Module documents (Module Reference Sheets, Handbooks etc)
- the RAU's [Regulations](#) and [Policies](#) (adapted for the JI) including the University's [Admissions Policy](#).

Briefly, the BSc (Hons) Agriculture degree will be subject to the RAU's Quality Assurance (QA) processes as follows:

New programme proposals are reviewed by a Validation Panel, comprising at least the following membership: normally one subject matter expert external to the School or University, at least 3 academic staff not associated with the proposal. The Panel may include 1 member of professional staff. Panels are supported by an appropriately trained Secretary who acts as advisor to the Panel. Proposals are reviewed in line with the QAA's UK Quality Code, Advice and Guidance: Course Design And Development and in the case of partnership arrangements in accordance with QAA's Advice and Guidance: Partnerships. All programmes are ultimately approved by Academic Board for a period of up to 6 years.

Programme changes within a validation period are approved by the Academic Quality and Standards Committee (AQSC) on behalf of Academic Board. No more than 1/3 of a programme's core modules may be changed within the validation period before early programme revalidation is instigated.

The University has in place regular monitoring procedures for quality assurance including an Annual Programme Managers Report for each programme.

RAU programmes have at least one External Examiner who monitors all aspects of the assessment process. This is in line with the advice and guidance provided by the UK's Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) regarding External Expertise which emphasises that external examining is one of the principal means for maintaining UK threshold academic standards within autonomous higher education institutions.

RAU programmes have a formally constituted Programme Board, which includes the External Examiner(s), and which is responsible for ensuring that awards are made within the Regulations of the University and that students are made awards on the basis of meeting the specified Learning Outcomes of a programme at the appropriate standard.

Each RAU programme has a Programme Committee which meets at least twice a year to discuss, *inter alia*, programme design and planning, the student experience (including feedback) and student progress. It is envisaged that the Academic Committee (of RAU AT QAU) will function in this role.

Student feedback, both qualitative and quantitative, is collected for each module studied and at a programme level via committees where students have the opportunity to discuss issues and give and receive feedback. The results of all feedback are considered by the Programme Committee (or Academic Committee for RAU AT QAU programmes) and issues of quality are considered by and acted on where appropriate by AQSC, Academic Board, School and University Executives.

Exceptions to the RAU Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes approved by Academic Board 30 July 2021 for the following four programmes delivered jointly with Qingdao Agricultural University.

BSc (Hons) Environment, Food and Society

BSc (Hons) International Business Management (Food and Agribusiness)

BSc (Hons) Food Production and Supply Management

BSc (Hons) Agriculture

The exceptions to the paragraphs listed below were approved by Academic Board through the application of paragraph 14 of the RAU Regulations.

- Admissions criteria: Paragraphs 21, 23-25, 27- 32, 35 & 38
- Student attendance and workload requirements: paragraphs 51 – 53
- Student Obligations: paragraph 58
- Qualifications: paragraph 84
- Combined Subjects: paragraph 100-101
- Free standing, embedded and short awards: paragraphs 104-106
- Design and Management of Awards: paragraph 113 & 118
- Module management: paragraph 132 [QAU are taking the lead for the dissertation]
- Placement and Work-based Learning: paragraphs 133-136
- Award of Credit, Progression and Qualifications: paragraphs 143,146-151(b), 158, 162-163
- Credit transfer: paragraph 183
- Recognition of Prior Learning: paragraphs 185-197
- Internal Transfers: paragraphs 198 – 202
- Notification of results: paragraph 274